

Senator Claire Moore

WEEKLY UPDATE: 19th October, 2018

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Claire meeting an African women's delegation, from Julie Owens' electorate in Western Sydney

THIS WEEK:

We celebrate the absolutely fantastic result in State parliament. After 119 years women have finally achieved the right to choose their own health outcomes. This was a special moment for the many, many people who have been working for this to happen over numerous years – this is real change.

Congratulations to the members of Parliament in Queensland who were led so well by our Labor members – the work done was outstanding.

If you get the chance take the time to read the speeches given in the debate - there were some very personal stories shared and communicated to bring about this generational change. The ongoing work by Labor 4 Choice galvanised members across the state. This is a great example of how advocacy works to bring about change.

We needed the support from the LNP and three brave members of the Opposition crossed the floor to ensure the vote was achieved.

Penny Wong has put out a media release this week running through the chaos we faced in Canberra – this week's bulletin will print it in full.

It is difficult to know where to start on the week with the government making so many questionable decisions. Tomorrow we will know whether this government will be governing in their own right or whether they will need to rely on support from the cross bench in the lower house for any decisions.

Amongst the many "low lights" this week we have seen the Prime Minister announce consideration to moving our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. The resultant response from Indonesia and other countries on this announcement, and leaks of advice from ASIO, have all caused real concerns in our community and I thank the many people who have contacted my office with their concerns.

The emails have continued to run hot this week with the main topics being religious faith, anti-discrimination, the right to be white....or not, the proposal to move our embassy to Jerusalem, live exports, IPCC, Indigenous Protected Areas and Indigenous ranger jobs, and children on Nauru. We can't wait for more announcements by the government!



SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE, LABOR SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

Senator Claire Moore

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CLAIRE'S WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

If there is material you would like included or expanded upon, please let us know. If you think that others would like to receive copies please let us know and we will include them on the mailing lists.

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UNSUBSCRIBE

WHAT'S BEING SAID ...



JERUSALEM EMBASSY – ALBANESE – 5AA RADIO-ADELAIDE

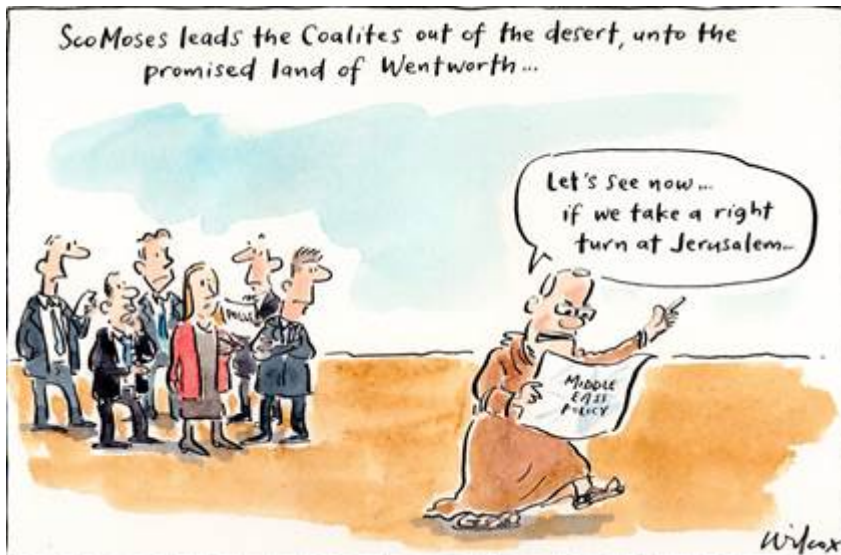
"There is no doubt that this is not a move designed to assist peace in the Middle East. This is designed to get a few votes in the electorate of Wentworth. I don't think it will. I don't think it will be successful at all. I think it will be seen for the cynical, stupid move that it is."

'WHATSAPP' - JERUSALEM EMBASSY - WONG – ABC RADIO NATIONAL BREAKFAST

"These leaked messages ([Indonesian responses] demonstrate the price that Australians are paying for this Prime Minister, Mr Morrison's selfishness. This is a bloke who puts politics first and good government second every single time. And he has put the Liberal Party before the nation."

JERUSALEM EMBASSY - WONG – ABC RADIO NATIONAL BREAKFAST

"Remember Scott Morrison told Australians he was going to wear a lapel pin, Fran? A lapel pin with the Australian flag on it to remind himself whose side he is on? Well he might have been better off looking at that before he made this decision."



WENTWORTH BY-ELECTION - HUSIC – SKY NEWS

"What else can we expect before Saturday? That they will announce a move of the nation's capital from Canberra to Coogee?"

WENTWORTH BY-ELECTION - WONG – ABC RADIO NATIONAL BREAKFAST

"The fundamental reason they're in trouble in a seat which is a very, very safe Liberal seat, the fundamental reason why, is they do not share the values of the community."

PRICE & THE PACIFIC – MARK BUTLER – CANBERRA

"This is an appalling contribution from Melissa Price. An appalling thing for her to say, not just to an esteemed individual, but through him to some of our

closest neighbours, the Pacific Islands, that are confronting existential threat as a result of climate change."

OUR REPUTATION - BURKE- SKY NEWS

"What must our neighbours think of us? If you're in the Pacific you're getting routinely abused by a Minister in a restaurant and if you're the Foreign Minister of one of our most important friends your text messages are turning up on the news."

PRICE & THE PACIFIC - MARK BUTLER - CANBERRA

"So what we have here is a Minister that has misled the Parliament about the account of that conversation, disrespected yet again the science on climate change, and disrespected a very esteemed individual in this area, but through him disrespected the entire region."

'IT'S OKAY TO BE WHITE' - ALBANESE – 5AA RADIO – ADELAIDE

"They were sitting there listening to her do the dog whistle to right-wing extremists, use language that is used by the KKK and other extreme right-wing groups. And then the bells rang and they voted for it."

'IT'S OKAY TO BE WHITE' - MARK BUTLER – ABC RADIO – ADELAIDE

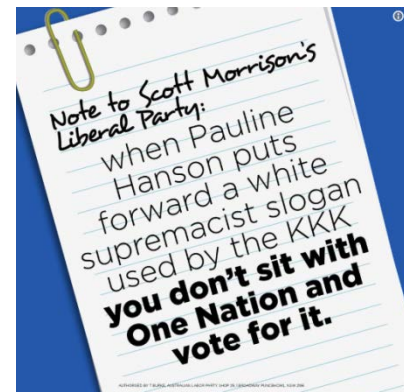
"This was the subject of substantial media commentary because it only took a cursory examination to find that the wording of this motion is a rallying cry used by white supremacists groups across the world, including the KKK."

'IT'S OKAY TO BE WHITE' - MARK BUTLER – ABC RADIO – ADELAIDE

"The big question is how on earth could this have happened? This was on the books for weeks, everyone understood this was not a rallying cry for equality; this was a rallying cry to maintain white supremacy and should have been called out as such by everyone in the Senate."

'IT'S OKAY TO BE WHITE' - WONG – SPEECH – SENATE

"And now you want to come in and say, 'Oops, we made a mistake.' We don't believe you. No-one believes you, and everybody knows this is a just craven and pathetic attempt to try and clean up your mess."



'IT'S OKAY TO BE WHITE' - O'CONNOR – SKY NEWS

"Frankly, it's like saying you didn't know what "Final Solution" meant."

'IT'S OKAY TO BE WHITE' - DREYFUS-ABC RADIO – PERTH

"If Mr Porter as the Attorney-General, responsible for the Racial Discrimination Act and other complex legislation isn't able to interpret a white supremacist-endorsed motion, well he shouldn't be doing his job. It's really an extraordinary piece of behaviour by the coalition, it's what their true values are."

SCOTT MORRISON - WONG – CANBERRA

"Scott Morrison is a man who time and time again we have seen puts politics before good government, puts the Liberal Party before the nation and puts his personal political interests before those of Australians."

SCOTT MORRISON - BURKE- SKY NEWS

"What we're seeing with Scott Morrison is exactly what you get when you put the advertising guy in charge."

NATIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP - WATT – CANBERRA

*"I think all Australians are gobsmacked to be reading reports that Barnaby Joyce is planning a comeback as the National Party leader."
"The idea of giving Barnaby Joyce the leadership back is like turning to the captain of the Titanic and handing him the keys back and telling him to have another go."*



NATIONAL PARTY LEADERSHIP - CHAMPION- SKY NEWS

"It's a sad day for country Australians because they see the once great National Party, the once great Country Party being burned on the altar of Barnaby Joyce's ambition and that's all this is about."

THE COALITION GOVT - WATT – CANBERRA

"Watching this week unfold you really have to wonder whether the Liberals and the Nationals are having some kind of competition about who can be the most dysfunctional party down here in Canberra. It's time they moved on, it's time they actually started thinking about Australians, rather than themselves."

NAURU REFUGEES - BUTLER- RN DRIVE

"We have a very clear responsibility for people who are at the centre in Nauru, a particular responsibility obviously for the health of children. Labor over the course of this week has outlined a much more proactive approach that would see the clinical needs of those children recognised very, very quickly."

NZ REFUGEE OPTION-- BUTLER- RN DRIVE

"This Bill would pose a lifetime ban. Let's say one of these children is resettled in New Zealand and becomes a political figure, a business figure, a member of the New Zealand Rugby Union team. They would not be able to come to Australia even decades after their resettlement. Let's call this out for what this is, it is a complete overreach."

DISCRIMINATION FREEDOM - WONG – SPEECH – SENATE - DISCRIMINATION FREE SCHOOLS BILL 2018

"Unfortunately, for purely political purposes, this Government has decided to deny Australians the right to a mature debate on how best to balance freedom of religion with the right of all Australians to live free from discrimination. The Government continues to refuse to share the report of the Religious Freedom Review Expert Panel with Australians and with its representatives."

PRE-SCHOOL EDUCATION - RISHWORTH - SPEECH - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

"The only guarantee from this government is that, for the nation's four-year-olds, there is no money in the budget after next year. It is a simple fact. No matter what the government members will tell you, no matter what the minister wants to tell you, the truth lies in the budget papers. After calendar year 2019, there are zero dollars in the budget. There are zero dollars in the budget for 2021. There are zero dollars in the budget for 2021-22."

LOW WAGES - O'CONNOR-MELBOURNE

"We've seen record low wage growth in this country for more than a quarter of a century. So the Government has no plans to ensure that Australians get a pay-rise. As a result, pressures on household budgets, cost of living pressures are acute for too many households in this country."

ABC INQUIRY – ROWLAND – ABC TV NEWS BREAKFAST

"Indeed the Minister has said that there was no direct request or instruction. The question remains: What sort of covert interference had taken place, because clearly these two people were left in no doubt as to the Government's view on these matters and the fact that the ABC could be impacted by how this matter was being handled. And these are the questions that need to be explored publicly."

IMMIGRATION ANOTHER MANIFEST FAILURE

NEUMANN – EXCERPTS FROM SPEECH - 2018 MIGRATION INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA - NATIONAL CONFERENCE

"The same migration issues I spoke about in 2017 are still on the Government's plate a year later and are largely unresolved. From blowouts in visa processing times, to botched skilled migration changes, to genuine refugees languishing in indefinite detention. These issues all remain.

Now is the first time in 20 years – and the second time in close-to 40 years – there has not been an Immigration Minister in Cabinet.

This means the Minister responsible for one of the most complex and technical portfolios – including Australia's permanent migration intake, our humanitarian program, and temporary work visas – does not have a voice in the Prime Minister's Cabinet.

Visa processing times have spiralled out-of-control across most visa classes.

The Skilled Independent visa currently has a processing time of 11 months.

Partner visas have an astonishing processing time of 26 months.

The number of people on bridging visas – waiting for their applications to be processed by the Department – has increased by over 38,000 people in the past year.

Visa processing times for the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa have increased from 19 months to 25 months in the past year.

The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa – a visa specifically designed to encourage regional migration – is almost inaccessible because of these processing times alone.

During the 2016 election, the Liberals followed Labor's lead and announced their commitment of enhanced visitor visas for sponsored parents – so that Australians could temporarily reunite with their loved ones.

It has been two years and four months since the Liberals made their promise and a new temporary sponsored parent visa still does not exist.

Multicultural and migrant communities across Australia have been left waiting to temporarily reunite with the loved ones – with some grandchildren having never met their grandparents.

The Government has broken their promise to Australia's multicultural and migrant communities by failing to deliver a new temporary sponsored parent visa."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"They behaved like stuffed dummies incapable of independent thought. What were they doing, auditioning for a remake of Weekend at Bernie's" - Anthony Albanese

"At the moment, the impression is that not merely is the Morrison team inexperienced, but it doesn't really believe in anything beyond keeping power. And that's a recipe for further misjudgements." - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"For lo, ScoMoses went up to the top of Bellevue Hill, and he returned with two tablets, and lo they were Panadol, for the headache this by-election hath become." - Guy Rundle (Crikey)

"This is a government which cannot govern which is a divided wreck which needs to be put out of its misery." - Nick Champion

"The Coalition embarking on yet another leadership change — its sixth since entering government five years ago — will be a final demonstration to a jaded electorate that everything it thinks is wrong with politics is true." - Bernard Keane (Crikey)

"These laws are no longer appropriate, if indeed they ever were appropriate. It's time our laws reflected the values we teach our children." - Bill Shorten (Speaking to the Discrimination Free Schools Bill 2018)

"I can't think of any other single initiative more likely to benefit us socially and economically." - Ross Gittins, (Economics Editor - The Sydney Morning Herald – on Labor's plan for more pre-school education)

"Prime Minister Scott Morrison's announcements of a possible move of our embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and of a review of our support for the Iran nuclear deal threaten seriously to prejudice the Australian national interest." - John McCarthy (Australian Strategic Policy Institute) -has served as Australian ambassador to seven countries, including the US, Indonesia, Japan and India.

DISGRACEFUL QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I know why you're here, it is for the cash. For the Pacific it is always about the cash. I have my chequebook here, how much do you want?" - Melissa Price Federal Environment Minister - displaying her outstanding diplomatic skills when addressing former President of Kiribati, Anote Tong who was a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize and confidant of Barack Obama on climate change issues

[Price also lied in parliament when claiming the quote attributed to her was 100% wrong! Three independent witnesses to the remarks confirm the quote was 100% correct]

GLIMPSES

HURRAH!



Queensland's parliament has voted to legalise abortion and erase a 119 year old "morality" offence in the state's criminal code, which a victorious Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk notes was written before women had the right to vote. *The Guardian reports* that the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 passed 50-41 last night after both Labor and the Liberal National party members were granted a conscience vote, with three LNP MPs — former opposition leader Tim Nicholls, Steve Minnikin and Jann Stuckey — breaking with the party's official stance against abortion. The move follows a 50-year struggle from women's groups in the state, which included a series of 1985 clinic raids and unsuccessful prosecutions under former premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen. PICTURE: Pro Choice Rally last Sunday (14 October). It is Don Brown (Capalaba State MP) on her right, Julie-Anne Campbell (ALP QLD State Secretary) and Shane King (Kurwongbah State MP) behind Claire and Julie-Anne and directly behind Claire is Ros McLennan – Queensland Council of Unions General Secretary.

BARNABY'S BACK

Not satisfied with their key role in taking down Malcom Turnbull Queensland LNP representatives are now hunting the scalp of Nationals leader and Deputy Prime Minister Michael McCormack just two months after they voted for him.

Mr Joyce's Queensland-based backers are counting numbers and believe they have enough support to challenge Mr McCormack or ask him to stand down, Fairfax media reported.

Queensland Nationals MP Michelle Landry urged her colleagues to calm down, insisting no one was interested in a spill right now, but adding Mr Joyce would one day regain

the leadership. "I'm sure at some stage in his career Barnaby will be leader again," she told Sky News. Speaking Thursday, Mr McCormack acknowledged "one or two" Nationals colleagues were briefing the media against him.

"They have lost their minds," an unnamed Liberal minister told Fairfax Media of the plan to remove Mr McCormack.



NEO-LIBERALISM HAS FAILED

Former Reserve Bank governor Bernie Fraser has called for a radical rethink to policy-making, saying the way to a fairer, more equal society is with a pragmatic approach.

Mr Fraser, the RBA governor from 1989 to 1996, said Australian society had become "less fair, less compassionate and more divided" and "more devoid of trust in almost every field of human activity" in recent decades, despite 27 years of solid economic growth.

The problem was an adherence to ideologies such as neoliberalism, which made for bad government policy-making, the economist told the Australia Institute's revenue summit in Canberra on Wednesday.

Among other things, it backs increasing the economic control of private interests, and decreasing the power of the public



sector. Proponents favour limiting subsidies, expanding tax bases, open markets, deregulation and privatisation of previously state-run businesses.

But Mr Fraser said the low-tax, high-individuality approach of neoliberalism failed many. "Favouring the market system ahead of the state system, and individual interests ahead of community interests, can lead to profoundly unfair social outcomes," The Guardian reported him as saying.

"Those unable to afford access to decent standards of housing, healthcare and other essential services have to settle for inferior arrangements, or go without."

WHY WE SHOULD BE INVESTING MORE

A new study has found that Australia's investment in medical research has significantly boosted our country's welfare, economy and future potential.

Releasing the report at an event in Parliament House this morning, the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes (AAMRI) President Professor Tony Cunningham AO said that for every dollar invested in medical research, we gain a \$3.90 return to the economy.

"A near \$4-to-\$1 is an extraordinary return on investment. This return is far higher than the level needed to secure government funding for just about any other investment in infrastructure," Professor Cunningham said.

NAURU HELL

(Excerpt of interview with AMA President Dr Tony Bartone)

BARTONE: Well, this is part of the ongoing advocacy on our part. We've called on the Australian Government to ensure that their medical care is being provided, to allow an independent delegation of Australian medical professionals to visit the island, and assure with the transparency and the independence to the Australian public that that care is being delivered appropriately in the facilities we're talking about.

FRANK KELLY: That's a proposal you put to the Government a few weeks ago, I think I'm right. Have you had a response yet from the Prime Minister on that?

BARTONE: As has been publicly reported, not as yet. But this remains an ongoing piece of advocacy on our front. We need a solution in this area. We need a solution which brings to a head this ongoing crisis. We're talking about the lives of children, in particular, many in very, very serious states of urgent medical care requirement, and we really do need to know that every day that goes by is another day of suffering for these children in particular.

BARTONE: What we're seeing in the Labor proposal is the most pragmatic achievable attempt to try and get a legislative solution to this problem, in the absence of any other formidable or meaningful approaches from the Government. This approach, this legislation will seek to both reduce the bureaucratic process in this transfer, increase the transparency, increase the medical decision-making powers, and increase the independent medical oversight of the whole medical treatment process on the facilities, in those processing centres, and ensure that vulnerable children, in particular, but anyone who requires urgent medical attention is afforded that care, appropriate care, before they get too far down the track.

FRANK KELLY: Okay, so the AMA's backing the Labor proposal.

BARTONE: We are.

PONTIOUS PILATE

Meanwhile, the most senior Australian health official on Nauru was to be deported on Wednesday, after being found to have breached the rules of the regional processing centre by its claimed, taking a photo of a patient.

And the response of the Federal government to this arbitrary action against an Australian citizen tasked with saving lives?

NOTHING! A spokeswoman for the Department of Home Affairs said Dr Montana's removal was a matter for the government of Nauru and health provider IHMS.

NO CHRISTIAN VALUES

Despite the withdrawal of both Gt Britain and US trade officials -Australian officials will be attending and supporting a Saudi government conference that some of the world's most prominent business figures are boycotting in the wake of growing evidence the theocracy murdered journalist Jamal Khashoggi. However, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has refused to guarantee the safety of Australian residents who may have to use Saudi diplomatic facilities here.





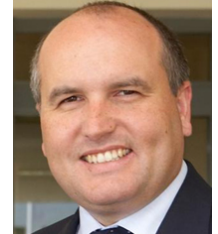
media companies have abandoned it in droves following evidence of the regime's luring Khashoggi into its Istanbul embassy, murdering him and dismembering his corpse. The Economist, The New York Times, the Financial Times and Bloomberg are all boycotting the event. A [number of other](#) high-profile business figures have also withdrawn, including Jamie Dimon of JP Morgan, Stephen Schwarzman of Blackstone, Larry Fink of BlackRock, Arianna Huffington, Dara Khosrowshahi of Uber, and Richard Branson. But the Australian government is supporting the event, despite belatedly expressing concern about Khashoggi last week. Austrade is [promoting the event](#) as "a valuable opportunity to explore investment partnerships with Saudi Arabia in priority sectors — services and technology, agriculture and food, and resources and energy", with Austrade committing to "organise client and investor meetings during FII supporting inward investment to Australia and targeted outward investment projects by Australian businesses".

WHAT'S DON DALE?

NSW Corrective Services Minister David Elliott has been ordered to hand over findings from an inquiry into solitary confinement in Juvenile Justice, which have sat on his desk unread for nine months.

The call comes after a former Indigenous detainee launched a lawsuit claiming he was [locked alone in a Sydney cell for a month](#) when he was 16 and subjected to degrading treatment, including from guards who allegedly encouraged him to kill himself.

"David Elliott has revealed his total disregard for the safety of juveniles under his care," Opposition corrections spokesman Guy Zangari said.



I GOT DEM OLD COMMUNICATION BLUES

As the government prepares to sell the NBN, levels of dissatisfaction against what critics describe as the worst infrastructure project in Australian history are extremely high. In overall terms, residential complaints rose to a record 146,957, an increase of 8141, or 5.9 per cent. Business complaints rose 8.7 per cent to 20,433, an increase of 1644.

The worst-performing telco by a considerable margin was [Optus](#), with an increase of 35 per cent in complaints. The next closest was Telstra, on a comparatively modest 7.7 per cent increase.

OPTUS THIEVES

The ACCC has commenced proceedings against Optus, alleging it made false or misleading representations to consumers in relation to its third-party billing service known as 'Direct Carrier Billing' (DCB).

Optus has admitted that it made false or misleading representations in contravention of the ASIC Act, and has agreed to apply jointly with the ACCC for orders from the Federal Court.

RRR



... AUSTRALIAN FINANCE INDUSTRY... THE KEYS TO THE FUTURE...

"Many customers didn't realise they were signing up to anything at all, and in some cases family members such as children incurred these charges without the account holder's knowledge."

"Despite over 600,000 direct enquiries Optus received over a number of years about this DCB service, Optus chose to continue to generate major profits at the expense of basic consumer protections," Mr Sims said.

[As a journalist I did over Optus more than 12 years ago!! Obviously they haven't changed their dishonest business model. Its fraud just like the banks, the super funds, and the insurers. Isn't it time some of these people went to gaol? As a consumer the best thing you can do is just don't do business with these people, don't give them your money! - David Margan, Editor]

FREE A PRISONER



Amnesty International in their global Write for Rights case

Amnesty is currently running to help a

[prisoner of conscience Atena Daemi](#).

Atena is a human rights defender who has

done nothing more than peacefully

campaign against the use of the death

penalty in Iran.

We would appreciate you taking a moment to [sign our petition](#). You can share Atena's

case on [social media](#),

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



RIP

"Ian Kiernan's greatest legacy is the creation of an informed, concerned, committed and involved community – sharing his passion for the safeguarding of our most precious asset, our environment," the Clean-Up Australia organisation said in a statement.

In January 1989 Mr Kiernan founded Clean Up Australia as Clean Up Sydney Harbour after becoming dismayed by the pollution he saw as he sailed the world's seas. More than 40,000 volunteers joined the effort and the following year his idea went national before going global in 1993.

Clean Up the World, with 30 million volunteers from 80 countries participating.

Mr Kiernan was Australian of the Year in 1994. Moments after receiving that award and despite being a republican Kiernan jumped on top of 24-year-old Australian man, David Kang, who had menacingly rushed Prince Charles while firing two blank shots from a pistol.

Four years later, he received the prestigious United Nations Environment Program Sasakawa Environment Prize for "mobilising tens of millions of people around the globe".

A keen yachtsman, Mr Kiernan sailed competitively for more than 40 years. In 1987, he represented Australia in the BOC world yacht race. He set the Australian record for a solo sail around the world, finishing in sixth place.

While he sailed on many yachts, one has become synonymous with his name, Maris. He bought the classic timber yawl in 1971 from marine artist Jack Earl, on condition he teach him how to cross oceans on it.

It was touring the seas where Mr Kiernan became dismayed at the level of pollution – plastic bags, nappies, bottles and cans – clogging the world's waterways. "Instead of a 'golden rain forest of the sea', literally covered by seaweed, I found a fading legend carpeted by rubbish." Media commentator Phillip Adams called him "the greatest Garbo since Greta".

Ian liked a drink, a party and a joke. He was old school and collected numerous speeding fines. In 2014, Mr Kiernan was fined \$1000 and had his licence suspended for six months following a mid-range drink-driving charge.

He even acknowledged that is an ignorant builder he once got done for littering when he dumped a load of building waste in a National Park. He was not perfect, none of us are but he learnt from his mistakes and became an irrepressible force for change

Clean Up co-founder Kim McKay recalled that spirit on Wednesday. "He had no airs and graces. He was just an average bloke, he'd say," Ms McKay told ABC News. "He was far from that I might say. He was a very interesting, larrikin, quintessential Australian."

It's believed plans to name a Manly ferry after him were scuttled by the NSW Liberal government as they knew he was a solid Labor supporter. In a eulogy in Parliament on Wednesday Labor leader Shorten called on the current NSW government to find a ferry for Ian. In the meantime, may he sail Maris around Heaven.



THE COALITION LEGACY

This week to coincide with the release of a major study, 2018 Australian Report on Poverty, prepared by the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS) and the University of NSW into poverty in Australia, ACOSS CEO, Dr Cassandra Goldie, spoke at the National Press Club. Here are some excerpts from that speech and the following Q&A session.

THE PROBLEM

"The report that we are releasing today, revealed a stark political, social, economic and yes, a deeply uncomfortable truth. The findings in this report show that for the entire 27 years of our much celebrated sustained economic growth as a country, poverty in Australia has persisted. Despite being one of the wealthiest countries in the world, poverty has become a consistent and destructive aspect of ordinary Australian life. Today, there are over three million people living in poverty and almost 740,000 children. That is one in eight people overall, and more than one in six children. In total that's 13.2 per cent of our population and 17.3 per cent of children.

What does that equate to? Well for an individual, it equates to \$433 per week to cover everything, or 22,500 per annum. For a couple with a couple of children, that equates to about \$900 per week. We have the second highest rate of poverty of any of those (OECD) countries, with the exception of the United States.

Over this period of time, there has been a steady rise in poverty amongst people who are unemployed. A staggering 68 per cent of people in households where the main earner is unemployed without virtually any paid work, are living in poverty today. And if you look on a trend basis for a single unemployed person, your risk of poverty- you are- 90 per cent of single unemployed people are living below the poverty line. And if you're relying on Social Security - Newstart, as you know frozen in value since 1994 - the poverty rate is now 55 per cent an increase of 25 per cent over the 15 year period. And on average for people on Newstart, the gap between what you get in your hand through that Social Security and the poverty line is a full almost \$250 per week.

For young people it is grim. Almost two thirds of people relying on Youth Allowance are in poverty. Youth Allowance that Social Security payment has also been frozen in time and the average poverty gap for a young person on Youth Allowance is about \$244 per week. This is deep and persistent poverty.

The rate of poverty amongst unemployed single parents and their children has skyrocketed from 35 per cent in 2013 to 59 per cent in just two years.

So today, I want the whole country to know this truth, that the price of the global financial crisis caused mostly by wealthy men, has been paid most acutely by mostly low income women and their children.

And the situation for people with a disability is also alarming, with nearly 40 per cent of people - that three million people, who are living below the poverty line with a disability. And for all people in the Australian community who do have a disability Vanessa, it's about 20 per cent of people who are living in poverty. It's not acceptable.

Unfortunately, in this report because of the inadequacy of the ABS data, we were not able to provide a detailed analysis of the rate of poverty amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Other researchers have had an attempt at that recently, they have estimated that the poverty rate for First Nations communities is about 31 per cent, so around double the rate of the community as a whole. And the rate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in remote areas is almost double that for communities that do live in urban areas Poverty takes a devastating toll.

Not having enough money to cover the basics of life forces people into a life of deprivation. And humiliation. And exclusion. Poverty erodes our sense of dignity and that sense of a right to be treated with respect.

A SOLUTION

Firstly, it will be no surprise to any of you in this room that I will say it again and I will say it slowly: the single most immediate policy change that would overnight reduce poverty in Australia is to lift the rate of New Start and Youth Allowance by a minimum of \$75 per week and restore the adequacy of family payments.

Fewer of those jobs are full time, fewer of them are secure, and certainly fewer of them are suitable for people who have been locked out of paid work and who are trying to get back in to the labour market. Right now, there are eight applicants for every job offered - eight applicants for every one job that's available. And if you look at the subset of those jobs, those jobs that are suitable for people who are trying to break back into the labour market, there are far more applicants. The last time this was looked at in detail, the assessment was that there was one job available for every 43 applicants for those entry level jobs.

Employment services to help people to get back into paid work are just not up to it. Very few unemployed people get worthwhile training or appropriate work experience in a real job, and these services must be overhauled

GOVERNMENT FAILURE

It might surprise some of you to know that the Australian Government has committed to reduce poverty by half by 2030.

The Australian Government did sign up to the Sustainable Development Goals; reduce poverty by half by 2030. That's 12 years. So it's 12 more



budgets; hopefully not 12 more prime ministers away.

[Laughter] Once again, we have no plan. We don't even have an agreed national definition of what poverty is because our federal government has refused to develop one.

Once again, we have no plan.

We don't even have an agreed national definition of what poverty is because our federal government has refused to develop one.

And indeed, if you listen to many of the current debates led by government, you will be forgiven for thinking that poverty in Australia is not an issue at all, really. Instead, the government celebrates a decline, and underspend in social security and services, as if that is an end in itself for the country, as if that is the vision. Consider this: not just in the horror 2014 Abbott Budget, but in almost every budget since the end of the global financial crisis stimulus package, we have cut away at our basic social protections: cuts to social security, cuts to family payments, cuts to community services.

Australia now treats people who are unemployed more harshly than any wealthy country. We spend less than half the OECD average on our employment services - the help we provide to people - we have the toughest compliance system of any of the countries alongside the UK, and we have the lowest level of the unemployment payment. This is a toxic combination. And on top of that, Australian government policies have made people in poverty feel humiliated, feel demonized and be bullied.

Australian politics has a long, tired and sorry track record of picking on vulnerable people, beating up on people who are unemployed: single mothers, migrants, refugees, First Nations people, to grab a headline and divert us away from the things that really matter. It is a form of collective bullying at its worst and it must stop. Poverty is the real issue that challenges this country and politics has been the problem that stands in our way.

CAN IT CHANGE?

I'm optimistic because the research shows that almost 80 per cent of us believe that the gap between the richest and the poorest of us is unacceptable, and that funding for aged care, for schools and for social security should come ahead of corporate tax cuts. The research is clear; the vast majority of us want our national government to respond to the Uluru Statement from the heart. The research shows 70 per cent of us believe that Newstart should be increased, and more than 90 per cent of us believe that no one should go without the basics of life: food, health care, transport and power.

I'm still waiting on the call from the most recent Minister for Social Services. He's the sixth minister we've had in the six years in that portfolio."

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EXTRAORDINARY LEAK ADDS TO COALITION CHAOS – Wong/Dreyfus

Thursday's reports of leaked ASIO advice relating to the government's proposal to move the Australian Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem show the extent of Scott Morrison's selfish recklessness. Morrison has already been widely criticised for Tuesday's announcement, viewed as a cynical and desperate attempt to buy votes in the Wentworth by-election.

In addition, the decision has been made without properly consulting our neighbour and important trading partner, Indonesia.

The leak today of a secret ASIO bulletin on the subject of the announcement is highly concerning. Documents such as these are heavily protected, and should never be used as tools for political gain or internal party warfare.

Thursday's leak of a highly classified document adds to the Coalition's week of chaos. A week in which:

- The Government 'accidentally' voted in favour of a motion containing a white supremacist slogan;
- The Environment Minister insulted a former President of a Pacific nation and misled the House;
- The Nationals are tearing themselves apart over yet another leadership spill.

It is vital that our security agencies, and highly classified documents, do not become a victim of this mess. Scott Morrison should immediately initiate an investigation into how this leak took place.

It is truly time for this divided, unstable and illegitimate government to come to an end.

MORRISON'S WENTWORTH DESPERATION – Wong

Scott Morrison is now so desperate to hang on to his job, he is prepared to say anything if he thinks it will win him a few more votes – even at the cost of Australia's national interest.

Australia's policy towards Israel is both long-standing and bipartisan – as it should be when Australia's national interests are at stake.

Both the Government and the Opposition have [supported the approach of most other nations of maintaining our embassy in Tel Aviv on the grounds that](#) Jerusalem's status must be determined as part of an overall two state solution that recognises the State of Israel behind secure borders.

In June this year, [former Foreign Minister Julie Bishop](#) declared “the Australian government will not be moving our embassy to Jerusalem. Jerusalem is a final status issue and we have maintained that position for decades.”

The same month, [DFAT Secretary Frances Adamson](#) declared that moving the embassy would be “unhelpful” to the peace process.

In July, when asked if the Australian Embassy would move to Jerusalem, Morrison said “no... no... it's not the Government's policy. It's never been under review and we're not doing it.”

Both Labor and the Government, like the United Kingdom, France, Germany and most of the international community have also supported the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as being the best option for preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

In March this year Julie Bishop [criticised the US withdrawal from the JCPOA](#) and recommitted Australia to the deal.

Foreign policy, and Australia's national interest are far too important to be played with in this fashion.

Instead of playing dangerous and deceitful word games with Australian foreign policy in a desperate attempt to win votes Scott Morrison should try governing in a way that reflects the values of the people of Wentworth by committing to serious action on climate change, and legislating to protect teachers and students from discrimination.

The people of Wentworth, and all Australians, deserve a leader who puts the national interest ahead of his self-interest, and governs in the best long term interest of the nation, not one prepared to play games with long standing foreign policy positions five days out from a by-election.

GOVERNMENT HAS BURIED VARGHESE INDIAN ECONOMIC STRATEGY REPORT - Singh

On Thursday in the Senate, the Morrison Government voted against “taking Australia's relationship with India to the level it deserves.” The government voted against responding to a report it commissioned, as well as the 10 key recommendations it makes optimising Australia's economic relationship with India.

The report – ‘An India Economic Strategy to 2035’ by former Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary Peter Varghese AO – details how no single market over the next 20 years will offer more growth opportunities for Australia than India.

The report's insight into Australia's relationship with India represents an exceptional and valuable body of research.

The Labor Party has already announced its in-principle agreement with the report and its recommendations as part of our ‘FutureAsia’ policy.

However, the Morrison Government has sat on the report without making a formal response for nearly six months.

The Morrison Government's burial of this report is in complete contrast to the fanfare with which then Prime Minister Turnbull announced its commissioning at the India Australia Business Dinner in Mumbai in April 2017.

Labor calls on the Morrison Government to respond to the report immediately as well as explain whether it will implement the recommendations to upgrade the Australia-India economic relationship and help provide a roadmap for the future.

BETTER AND FAIRER TRADE AGREEMENTS – Clare

Labor would sign better, fairer trade deals that give Australian workers a fair go and protect public services, while ensuring more independent scrutiny of trade deals.

Labor today introduced the *Fair Go for Australians in Trade Bill 2018*, which would permanently fix problems with the way the Liberals currently negotiate trade agreements.

There are two problems with the way the Liberals negotiate trade agreements – what they put in agreements and the secrecy under which they are negotiated.

Labor will fix this by prohibiting the things in trade agreements Australians don't like and increasing independent scrutiny of trade agreements.

The Bill **prohibits the Australian Government from signing agreements** that:

- Waive labour market testing
- Include Investor State Dispute Settlement provisions
- Require the privatisation of public services
- Undermine the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme
- Undermine Australia's anti-dumping laws
- Limit the ability of the Australian Government to regulate in the interests of public welfare or in relation to safe products
- Undermine mandatory skills testing requirements
- Places certain restrictions on Government procurement.

The Bill **increases scrutiny of trade agreements** by:

- **Requiring agreements to undergo Independent National Interest Assessments to before they are signed**
- **Establishing a team of ‘Accredited Advisors’ from industry, unions and civil society who would be provided with access to the draft text after each round of negotiations.**

In addition a Shorten Labor Government will also expand the role of the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties.

It should be involved in the development of trade agreements from start to finish not just examining them at the end.

Before any trade negotiation starts it should be consulted on the government's Statement of Objectives for Negotiation – and given the chance to provide feedback.

It will also be briefed by DFAT after each round of negotiations on how the negotiations are going and what they are focussed on.

We will also provide public updates on each round of negotiations and release draft texts during negotiations where this is feasible.

High quality trade agreements should also lead to better working conditions and labour standards, not worse.

That's why this Bill also requires the Australian Government to include in all bilateral trade agreements a labour chapter with internationally recognised labour principles.

The Australian Government should also seek to include a labour chapter in any regional or multilateral trade agreement it signs.

In addition a Shorten Labor Government would go back and fix the mistakes the Liberals have made in negotiating trade agreements by:

- **Establishing a dedicated team of negotiators in the department of Foreign Affairs and Trade who would be charged with removing labour market testing waivers and ISDS provisions from existing trade agreements – including the CPTPP. This team will update Accredited Advisors on the progress of these negotiations.**

- **Fixing the inadequate skills assessment process – starting with a Senate Inquiry into the skilled visa system.**

If the government signs any trade agreements in the next few months it is very unlikely they will come before the parliament before the next election.

That is because the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties is required to consider any trade agreement for a minimum of 20 joint sitting days before it reports and enabling legislation is introduced.

If the current government were to sign a trade agreement between now and the next election that includes clauses that are prohibited in this legislation we wouldn't support it in the Parliament before the election and if we win the next election we will go back and renegotiate that agreement to take those clauses out before bringing any enabling legislation before the Parliament.

Labor will be announcing other measures before the end of the year that will protect local jobs and communities from the negative impacts of agreements entered into by Liberal Governments, which will ensure temporary visas and temporary visa workers are not exploited and which will ensure Government procurement and projects support local jobs.

IMMIGRATION

LABOR WILL GET THE KIDS OFF NAURU– Neumann/King

Labor will introduce legislation to address the Government's failure to ensure children in Australian-funded regional processing centres receive the urgent medical care they need.

For five years, successive Liberal governments have failed to ensure that children in regional processing centres are receiving timely and adequate care – or being transferred to alternative locations for that care.

Labor shares the increasing concerns expressed by the medical fraternity, including the Australian Medical Association that the Government is failing in its obligations to provide adequate medical care for children in offshore processing locations.

To address the Liberals' failure, Labor will introduce legislation to:

- **Ensure the recommendation of treating clinicians is the primary consideration when determining a temporary medical transfer for a child;**
- **Ensure the Minister, not the bureaucracy, is the final decision-maker with respect to medical transfers;**
- **Require the Minister to make a determination on medical transfers within 24 hours;**
- **Introduce greater transparency and accountability over decisions to approve or deny the medical transfer of children; and**
- **Strengthen the existing Independent Health Advice Panel by establishing it in legislation, regularising its work, entrenching greater independence through membership, and mandating transparency in its reporting.**



These are practical, reasonable and responsible measures to address the chaotic, confusing and inconsistent medical transfer process that currently exists for asylum seeker and refugee children.

This is about making sure vulnerable and sick children in Australia's care can receive the medical treatment they need – when and where they need it.

If the Liberals' decision making had the best interests of the child at its core, then they should welcome these proposed improvements, which entrench this principle and enhance transparency over decision making.

Under Labor's legislation, families, a parent or a guardian will be able to be transferred to Australia whilst the child undergoes treatment. The Bill ensures that the rights of the child are a primary consideration for the Minister – every child has a right to be with their family or guardian. Labor has long held concerns about medical treatment services and medical transfer procedures in regional processing centres. We investigated these issues in the Labor-initiated Senate inquiry following the leaked Nauru files.

Labor believes that medical transfers to alternative treatment locations for refugees and children in regional processing centres should be made available when treatment is recommended by appropriate medical practitioners.

Labor will not put the lives of vulnerable children at risk by allowing people smugglers to restart their vile trade. Labor's proposed legislation will mean children in regional processing centres can receive medical treatment when it is required.

Ensuring Australia maintains strong borders does not absolve the Government of its obligation to provide appropriate health, security, and welfare services to children in Australian-funded regional processing centres.

Labor's policy on asylum seekers is clear – we will never let the people smugglers back in business.

We believe in strong borders, offshore processing, and regional resettlement and turn backs when safe to do so, because we know it saves lives at sea.

Nauru and Manus Island were set up as temporary regional processing centres but have become places of indefinite detention because of the failure of successive Liberal Governments to negotiate other third country resettlement options.

Scott Morrison must do everything possible to end genuine refugees languishing in indefinite detention – he should begin by accepting New Zealand's generous offer to resettle eligible refugees, including children, from Nauru and Manus Island as quickly as possible.

Labor has made clear that, in government, we will accept New Zealand's offer with appropriate conditions, and negotiate other third country resettlement options as a priority.

Labor took a strong, progressive policy to the last election – including commitments to increase Australia's annual humanitarian intake to 27,000 by 2025, provide funding to support the important work of the UNHCR and establish an Independent Children's Advocate to protect the rights of children.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENT WITH NEW ZEALAND – Neumann

Labor welcomes the Government's sudden and unexplained interest in considering a regional resettlement arrangement with New Zealand with eligible refugees.

We have long called on the Liberals to accept New Zealand's generous offer to resettle refugees from Manus and Nauru and negotiate conditions similar to the US refugee resettlement agreement to prevent people smugglers exploiting vulnerable people.

The Government's "lifetime ban" legislation – which has been sitting in the Senate for nearly two years without debate – is not required to secure regional resettlement arrangements.

The "lifetime ban" legislation permanently excludes any person who travelled to Australia by means other than the normal channels for immigration, including by boat, from ever entering Australia.

This would include someone who has subsequently settled in the United States and, decades later, needs to come to Australia for a short business trip, or to visit a dying relative.

Other examples of people who would be banned from ever coming to Australia include:

- **politicians undertaking a political exchange;**
- **elite athletes hoping to compete in Australian sport events;**
- **tourist visits by former refugees who are now citizens of another country; and**
- **business owners or employees visiting in Australia to discuss the expansion of companies and businesses into the Australia market.**

The legislation is a ridiculous overreach and is irrelevant to securing third country resettlement arrangements and Labor does not agree to the legislation in its current form.

Scott Morrison has not explained why these laws are required for a resettlement deal with New Zealand and the Liberals have not reached out to Labor to give an assurance of any such deal.

The United States refugee resettlement deal is already underway and operating successfully without these laws. If Malcolm Turnbull was able to negotiate conditions for the US arrangement, then Scott Morrison should be able to negotiate them for any arrangement with New Zealand.

We urge Scott Morrison to do what he should have done on his first day in the job – pick up the phone to New Zealand and negotiate a resettlement arrangement and appropriate conditions and restrictions.

If the Government is incapable of doing this, a Labor Government will get it done.



ONLY LABOR WILL END UNFAIR TERMINATION OF AGREEMENTS - O'Connor

Wednesday's application to the Fair Work Commission by BP to terminate their enterprise agreement with workers at the Kwinana Oil Refinery is the latest example of a company using the threat of termination of an enterprise agreement during bargaining.

Since the Aurizon decision in 2015, it has become too easy for employers to pass the legal test to have enterprise agreements terminated against the wishes of employees.

It has also led to more and more employers using the threat of termination of expired agreements as weapons during bargaining.

Employers should not be able to threaten the nuclear option of having an agreement terminated and workers thrown back onto the award - losing pay and conditions bargained for in some cases over many decades – as a negotiating strategy.

It is not illegal, but it is bad law.

It acts as a disincentive to bargain collectively and in good faith.

If elected, a Shorten Labor government will change the law in order to redress the imbalance in bargaining power between workers, their unions, and employers. We will prevent employers from too easily resorting to the nuclear option of terminating enterprise agreements.

In stark contrast, despite average annual wage increase in new private sector enterprise agreements hitting a 25 year record low under the Liberal government, they are cheering on employers to terminate agreements.

Who could forget when the then Minister for Education Simon Birmingham, encouraged other universities to do as Murdoch University did in August last year – abandon bargaining with their workforce, apply to terminate their enterprise agreement, and effectively slash their employees' wages by more than 30 per cent.

When you have a government which calls for employers to terminate enterprise agreements, there is no doubt that they put profits before people, and have no interest in enterprise bargaining.

At a time when wages growth has hit record lows, Morrison and his Liberals would rather support employers wishing to cut conditions of employment, rather than support workers and wages.

WAGES GROWTH CONCERNS REMAIN AS PEOPLE STOP LOOKING FOR WORK – O'Connor

Labor welcomes the improvement in the unemployment rate in today's Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) labour force figures, but remains concerned about underlying structural problems such as stubbornly high underemployment and stagnant wages growth.

While there was a modest increase in the number of jobs created, we note the participation rate dropped 0.24 percentage points to 65.4 per cent, meaning that the amount of people looking for work fell sharply. This is the largest drop in the participation rate since August 2016. The number of unemployed persons looking for full time work decreased by 38,000.

Of particular concern is the youth unemployment rate which is more than double the national average at 11.4 per cent.

Labor remains very concerned about the labour market's structural problems. The number of underemployed and underutilised Australians – that is people wanting more work but not being able to find it – remains stubbornly high at more than a million.

When coupled with the number of unemployed, it means there are 1.7 million Australians who want work or more work but can't find it.

We note that just yesterday, the deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank noted the link between Australia's high underutilisation rate and stagnant wages growth, and expressed concern about the stubborn rate of long term unemployment, "**given the adverse social and economic consequences**".

Anglicare Australia's report [Jobs Availability Snapshot 2018](#), released today, provides further evidence of the problems which sit below the headline unemployment figure. Anglicare's report highlighted that entry level job seekers are facing relentless challenges, with at least 4 job seekers competing for each entry level role. There are not enough entry level positions for the people who want and need them, with 111,000 entry level jobseekers, but only 26,000 entry level jobs.

Yet, you will never hear Morrison and his Liberals talking about these numbers, or doing anything to support the people those numbers represent.

Under Scott Morrison and his Liberals, Australians are suffering with insecure work, stagnant wages and skyrocketing cost of living pressures. Everything is going up in Australia except for wages.

Morrison and his Liberals are too pre-occupied with fighting themselves instead of focusing on the needs of Australians.

This is a Muppet Show that supports cuts to wages through slashing penalty rates while spending years advocating for a \$17 billion tax handout to the banks.

PYNE WAVES GOODBYE TO MORE ASC JOBS – Marles/Carr

In less than 12 months Christopher Pyne has delivered three rounds of job losses at ASC, with 372 shipbuilders losing their jobs at Osborne.

Christopher Pyne has let down the workers at Osborne, South Australia, and the Australian shipbuilding industry. He has shown exactly what his promises are worth.

A year ago, the Minister promised:

“The valley of death is over and we are now seeing an upturn in employment in naval shipbuilding in our state that will only continue to increase as these new projects gain momentum.”

On 11 December 2017, he announced:

“We are stabilising the shipbuilding workforce ... things are truly on the up at Osborne.”

Only two weeks ago the Prime Minister said at Henderson in Western Australia that:

“Our defence industry plan is delivering.”

It's clear to the entire world what a promise from this divided, unstable and illegitimate



HEALTH

GOVT MUST SUSPEND MY HEALTH RECORD AND ORDER A PRIVACY REVIEW – King

The Government must heed Labor's call to suspend the rollout of the My Health Record and commission an independent review of privacy provisions.

A Labor-initiated inquiry into the My Health Record – which Minister Hunt dismissed as a “stunt” – has uncovered a number of new privacy and security concerns.

We [agree with the report](#) that the Government's botched implementation of an opt-out model means **“an unreasonable compromise may have been struck between ensuring the utility of the system and safeguarding the privacy and safety of healthcare recipients”**.

We therefore urge the Government to commission the Privacy Commissioner and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner to review the system. In particular, the review should consider:

- The appropriate balance between utility for clinicians, patients and others (such as carers), and privacy and security for individuals;
- The difficulty of ensuring informed consent in an opt-out model, and measures to encourage consumer engagement and informed choice;
- Changes to default access settings that are necessary because of the shift to an opt-out model (from an opt-in model, where informed consent was assured);
- Particular protections for vulnerable people, including minors aged 14-17 and families fleeing domestic violence; and
- Further legislative, policy and system changes that are needed to achieve these aims.

The Liberals failed to bring their My Health Record changes on for debate this week, in a clear signal they've realised their amendments are woefully inadequate.

This delay until the November sittings – days before the opt-out period is due to end – means the Government cannot keep to its current timetable. The My Health Record must not proceed until public confidence in this reform is restored.

Labor urges the Government to adopt the six amendments we have already announced, which are designed to restore that confidence.

These amendments will better protect the privacy of employees and women fleeing domestic violence, and ensure the My Health Record can never be privatised or commercialised, or exploited by private health insurers.

Labor supports electronic health records.

But the Senate inquiry process has exposed a range of deficiencies that must be addressed before this scheme rolls out to every Australian.

The Government has stubbornly refused to fix these problems, instead pressing on with a bill that doesn't come close to addressing all relevant privacy and security concerns.

Labor has been calling for a suspension of the rollout since July but the Government has spent months insisting this wasn't necessary. It's time for the Government to admit it was wrong and change course before it's too late.

BUNGLED \$220 MILLION PRIVATISATION OF NATIONAL CANCER SCREENING – King/Hill

In a scathing report, the powerful Joint Standing Committee of Public Accounts and Audit (JCPAA) slammed the Government's failure to deliver the lifesaving National Cancer Screening Register for cervical and bowel cancer, and recommends that the Government consider terminating the bungled \$220 million contract with Telstra Health.

The Liberal Government's disastrous handling of their own privatisation of the critical cancer screening register has cost taxpayers millions, and risked the lives of Australian women due to delays with the new cervical cancer screening program replacing the old pap-smear test.

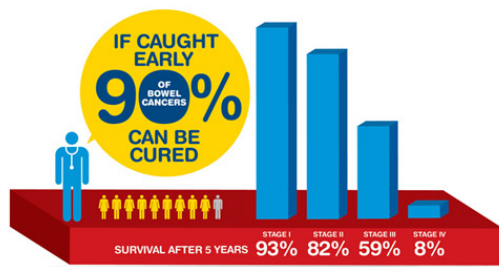
The failings are so serious that the unanimous report recommended:

“The Committee recommends...whether, in the circumstances of such serious under performance by Telstra Health, it may be in the Commonwealth's interest to terminate the contract and pursue other options...” Recommendation 11, 4.29, Report 472, JCPAA.

Just days before the 2016 election the Government rushed to sign a questionable contract after a dodgy tender process, in which senior Health department staff owned Telstra shares but did not declare them.

The tender evaluation process was so flawed that the department could not rule out the possibility that Telstra Health may not even have won the contract if the department had followed its own tender evaluation plan.

Screening saves lives!



of the Department's response to revelations that a senior health official voted for Telstra Health as a preferred tenderer while owning undeclared Telstra shares, and

- report back to the Committee on whether the Auditor-General was provided with access to all departmental records when undertaking his audit.

The Minister for Health must apologise to Australians for this appalling mess and explain what he is going to do to fix it.

GOVT CHAOS WITH CANCELLED VOTE ON SUICIDE REDUCTION – Julie Collins/Deborah O'Neill

The Morrison Government's chaos in the Senate has continued this afternoon when the Coalition opposed a motion calling for the introduction of a suicide reduction target.

What's worse is the Government's Minister called a division to record their opposition but called off the division, hoping no one would notice, with the vote decided on voices.

Tuesday's confused Senate vote follows the Government's decision to last night support an appalling motion endorsing a key catchphrase used by the white supremacy movement.

It is disappointing the Government missed another opportunity to make a difference and support a serious target to address Australia's heart-breaking suicide rate.

Labor has been consistently calling on the Government to adopt the target to reduce suicide by 50 per cent over 10 years.

Labor's commitment is based on the best advice of experts in the field.

The commitment for a target to reduce suicide by 50 per cent over 10 years was recommended by the National Mental Health Commission.

Most recently Lifeline backed this target with a call to achieve a proportionate reduction over five years.

A robust target, backed by real resources from all levels of government and an effective plan that supports long-term reform, needs to be implemented to drive change.

Too often the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison Government has played catch-up in this vital area of policy.

It took almost a year of Labor publicly calling on the Liberal Government to extend the suicide prevention trial sites before it finally announced it would do so.

Labor knows there is more work to be done to improve the mental health of Australians and to further reduce the thousands of lives lost to suicide each year.

Australians living with mental ill health cannot afford anything less.

*** For 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services call Lifeline on 13 11 14. Other services include Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467, Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636, Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800, MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978 ***

GOVT MUST RESPOND TO THE LOW-SURVIVAL-RATE CANCER SENATE REPORT – Bilyk

The Senate called on the Morrison Government to hurry up and table its well-overdue response to the unanimous report of the Senate Select Committee into Funding for Research into Cancers with Low Survival Rates.

"The Government must demonstrate that it is serious about improving outcomes for patients of cancers with low survival rates, and table its response now," Senator Catryna Bilyk, who served as Chair of the Committee, said.

"While waiting for the Government's response, thousands of patients of cancers with low survival rates have died.

"Many others are looking for some hope that serious action will be taken to improve their chances of survival.

"If the Government has taken actions in response to the Committee's report, then the onus is on them to demonstrate what they've done and how it relates to the recommendations through a formal response."

Government responses are required within three months of reports being tabled, making the Government's response to the low-survival-rate cancer inquiry almost eight months overdue.

"This inquiry received over 300 submissions and over 100 witnesses addressed public hearings," Senator Bilyk said.

"There were contributions from medical practitioners, researchers and patient advocates, as well patients themselves and their families, who bravely told their tragic stories—often through tears.

"Committee members from the Government, Opposition and cross-bench worked hard to produce 25 recommendations covering issues such as research funding, TGA and PBAC approval processes and access to clinical trials.

"The Government's failure to provide a timely response is a slap in the face to everyone who contributed to the Committee's inquiry."

ECONOMY

RIP COMPANY TAX CUTS – Ketter

The Senate Economics References Committee on Thursday released its [report](#) into the Business Council of Australia's 'Commitment to the Senate'.

Labor called on companies that co-signed a [letter to the Senate](#) to provide real evidence through a Senate Inquiry to substantiate the investment, employment and wage rises promised if the Turnbull-Morrison Government's big business company tax cuts were passed. Labor established this inquiry in March after evidence emerged that less than a quarter of businesses would prioritise putting on more staff or increasing wages if they received a tax cut.

Committee Chair, Labor Senator Chris Ketter, said it was disappointing big business had ducked questions on their future investment and wage plans throughout the inquiry.

"Labor doesn't trust trickle down economics and when we asked for proof that everyday Aussies would benefit from a handout to big business all we got were non-committal platitudes – especially from the government," Senator Ketter said.

But Labor held the line and voted down the tax cuts in the Senate. As a result, just like on the Banking Royal Commission the Liberal Nationals back flipped, scrapping their unfair tax plan in the Turnbull-Dutton-ScoMo stoush.

But Scott Morrison is the architect of these big business tax cuts and he will bring back them back as soon as he gets a chance.

While the Liberal Nationals look out for the top end of town, only Labor can be trusted to stand up for the interests of everyday Australians and make sure these tax cuts are dead and buried.

CDPP SEEKS MORE FUNDING FOR COMMISSION PROSECUTIONS – Dreyfus/Clare O'Neil

The Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions, Sarah McNaughton, has confirmed she is in discussions with the government about the need for additional funding for her agency, due to an expected increase in workload stemming from the Banking Royal Commission.

The Banking Royal Commission – which Scott Morrison resisted for 600 days – has uncovered staggering misconduct in the financial services sector and hundreds of thousands of potentially criminal breaches of the law. It is expected that recommendations for prosecution will emerge from the Royal Commission's final report.

Labor is absolutely committed to cracking down on this misconduct. In his budget reply speech, Labor leader Bill Shorten announced our commitment of a \$25 million funding boost to the CDPP, recognising what is likely to be a high number of prosecutions recommended in the final report of the Banking Royal Commission.

Instead of matching our commitment, Senate Estimates revealed that the Morrison Government was planning to cut funding for the Serious Financial Crime Taskforce from July next year – right after the expected completion of the Banking Royal Commission.

Corporate criminals must brought to justice. Instead of running a protection racket for corporate crooks, the Government should match Labor's commitment for a Corporate Crime Taskforce and ensure our CDPP is adequately funded.

Labor fought for this Royal Commission, Labor committed to a Corporate Crime Taskforce, and Labor will work day and night to protect Australian businesses and consumers from misconduct in the financial services sector.

FEDERAL LABOR WELCOMES LIBERAL BACKFLIP ON GST – Bowen

On Tuesday, Scott Morrison and Josh Frydenberg have executed yet another spectacular back down under pressure from the Labor Party, state premiers and treasurers, and Liberal Party senators.

When Labor said Western Australia needed a Fair Share for WA Fund, Scott Morrison attacked 'top-ups', then agreed to them.

When Labor said it would make the GST floor the law, the Liberal Party ignored it, then agreed to it.

When Labor said the commitment to ensure no state was worse off should be enshrined in law, the Liberal Party scoffed at it, and today have agreed to do it until 2026.

Federal Labor welcomes this major back down from the new Treasurer.

Only two weeks ago, Mr Frydenberg was asked directly why he wouldn't put this guarantee into the legislation he said he didn't want to.

JOURNALIST: The states were outside a moment ago saying that they want this promise you have made that no state is worse off to be put in legislation. Why aren't you doing that?

FRYDENBERG: Well, what the states want is for us to run a parallel scheme; the old system and the new system. **And we don't want to run a separate set of books.** {DOORSTOP, 3 OCTOBER 2018}

On Tuesday the Treasurer announced that the Commonwealth will indeed run a separate set of books.

We welcome the back down and look forward to the legislation being introduced into the House.

CHILDCARE

FORMER CHILDREN MINISTER BELIEVES PRESCHOOL WILL LOWER YOUR IQ – Rishworth

Yes, Former Assistant Minister for Children and Families, David Gillespie said yesterday during his response to a Matter of Public Importance on *The Government's failure to invest in Australian preschools* that early education can lower a child's IQ.

GILLESPIE: *There is a lot of evidence coming out of Europe; Germany- I have got the articles here, I will show you later, Mr. Deputy Speaker- and Italy that you know in some quarters, extra formal day care leads to a lower IQ down the track and that there is less beneficial social and emotional wellbeing and more aggressiveness in children that are in very long, long day care.*

This is still not the dumbest thing to happen in Parliament this sitting week.



DEFENCE

MORE EVIDENCE THAT MILITARY FAMILIES NEED LABOR'S SUPPORT PLAN – Rishworth

Thursday's [Family Wellbeing Study](#) highlights the impact service can have for military families, and the need to give those families greater support. While the Study provides a generally positive picture of military family life, it identifies that particular subgroups, including adult children, children aged 2 to 1 and spouses and partners of both current and ex-serving defence force members do experience more challenges and could benefit from targeted assistance.

Labor recognised that our families would benefit from greater support which is why we previously announced, that if elected we would develop a *Family Engagement and Support Strategy* to provide greater support to our military families.

Our military families are our ADF member's pillar of support, they are there when no one else is- they are the unsung heroes of our defence forces.

This report once again highlights the need for a targeted approach to support our military families.

Developing a *Family Engagement and Support Strategy* will identify where we can provide greater support to military families - those who matter most to our ADF personnel and veterans; their wives, husbands, sons and daughters.

Labor's commitment to develop a *Family Engagement and Support Strategy* in Government would be co-designed with defence and veteran families and communities, to focus on known stress points for families, including transition for Defence members into civilian life.

We know that families play an especially unique role within military life and service.

Military families themselves make many sacrifices and our ADF personnel and veterans look to them for support while in service, in transition and in civilian life.

When it comes to our current and ex-service defence personnel, Labor will always prioritise the critical role military families' play and our commitment to developing a family strategy will ensure that they are not forgotten.

GOOD LUCK TO OUR ATHLETES AT THE INVICTUS GAMES – Shorten/Farrell/ Marles/Rishworth
Federal Labor congratulates Australia's Invictus Games team and wishes them the best of luck as they represent our nation in Sydney this week.

Australia will host the Games for the first time and field our biggest ever team, with 72 current and former serving personnel competing alongside athletes from 17 other nations at Sydney's Olympic Park, on Sydney's streets and on Sydney Harbour.

The Invictus Games are open to competitors from all branches of the regular or reserve Armed Forces of participating nations who have become wounded, injured or ill during, or as a direct consequence of, their service.

Invictus is Latin for 'unconquered'. The Invictus Games use the power of sport as a catalyst to motivate recovery, support rehabilitation and generate a wider understanding of and respect for serving and ex-service personnel.

We are all thankful of the service and sacrifice Australian men and women have made for our freedoms. In some cases, the cost of this sacrifice has led to life-changing injuries, both visible and invisible.

Over the course of the week more than 500 athletes from 18 nations will compete for medals in 11 adaptive sports and also participate in golf and wheelchair tennis.

We are incredibly proud of the service and commitment of our current and ex-service men and women.

Labor will be cheering on Australia's athletes as our wounded warriors overcome adversity and represent their country once again as they compete next week in the spirit of Invictus.



75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPLETION OF THAI-BURMA RAILWAY – Rishworth/Snowdon
Tuesday marked the 75th anniversary of the completion of the Thai-Burma Railway as we remember the sacrifice of Australian Prisoners of War (POW).



This historic milestone will be marked at a national ceremony today in Ballarat to remember all of those POWs who worked on the Thai-Burma Railway and those included in the notorious Hellfire Pass.

Hellfire Pass would become known as one of the most dangerous parts of the Thai-Burma Railway with its brutal conditions digging, drilling and blasting through solid rock.

The men who worked on the railway were subject to poor conditions, with little to no food and faced tropical diseases.

The railway which is 420km long was built through mountains in a thick jungle terrain.

The extreme conditions of the railway saw more than 12,500 Allied POWs die while working on the railway.

It is believed that 2,800 Australians died working in the Thai-Burma Railway, 700 at Hellfire pass alone. We remember the sacrifice and service of those men, whose lives were never the same.

INNOVATION

WELL DONE - WINNERS OF 2018 PRIME MINISTER'S SCIENCE PRIZES - Carr/Champion

Labor congratulates the recipients of the 2018 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science, who were recognised at an awards ceremony at Parliament House on Wednesday night.

The recipient of the Prime Minister's Prize for Science, Emeritus Professor Kurt Lambeck AO, and each of the other recipients are examples of the outstanding talent within Australia's laboratories, businesses, universities and classrooms.

These awards reflect the nation's pride in the important contribution that science and research make in driving innovation across our economy and creating the jobs of the future.

That's why a Shorten Labor Government will work with business, industry, universities and research institutes to boost Australia's investment in research and development to 3 per cent of GDP by 2030.

A Shorten Labor Government will build the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) workforce of the future, support advanced manufacturing businesses and the commercialisation of new ideas in Australia.

More information about the Prime Minister's Prizes for Science winners is available at www.science.gov.au/pm-science-prizes

FIRST PEOPLE

CDP CHANGES WILL RESULT IN MORE HARM- Dodson/Burney/McCarthy

The Morrison Government's tinkering with the Community Development Program does nothing to address the harm this discriminatory program is causing in remote communities. The destructive impact of the punitive program on remote communities is well known, with evidence showing the CDP is leaving participants unable to feed their families and disengaging with the social security system. Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion promised substantial reform to the remote area work for the dole program. Instead what he's given us is tinkering around the edges, which worsens the impact of the CDP.

The proposed legislation Social Service Legislation Amendment (Community Development Program) Bill 2018 will make severe financial penalties worse.

The Government's own figures show they expect 25 per cent of CDP participants to be cut off income support for four weeks, further driving up poverty.

The Bill will increase the workload of local health services without giving them any more resources.

The Government has failed to consult with stakeholders about the impact of their changes in remote areas. Again they do things to, rather than with, First Nations people.

The CDP is a failure and the Government's proposed amendments will make it worse.

Labor will not be supporting this legislation.

THE FARM

GOVERNMENT'S LIVE EXPORT REGULATOR REPORT DELAY UNACCEPTABLE – Fitzgibbon

On Wednesday Minister David Littleproud revealed yet another delay to the release of the [Moss Review](#) – commissioned on the back of the shocking footage of animal cruelty on the Awassi Express. This review is already eight weeks overdue, and more than six months since we saw the shocking footage. This delay is unacceptable.

Littleproud's comments made at the National Farmers' Federation Congress indicate a failure of the Morrison Government to show true leadership in the agriculture sector. The Minister has been sitting on the report - he should release it immediately.

It is critical that the findings and recommendations are made public to begin the process of rebuilding trust and independence in the live export regulator.

[The Moss Review](#) was called by Minister Littleproud in response to April's 60 Minutes report. Its purpose was to review the capabilities, investigative capacity and culture of the independent regulator for live exports, the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and was due to report on 24 August.

Since then, farmers have been left to languish in a state of limbo and hundreds of thousands of sheep remain stranded because the Government has failed to provide certainty or to communicate a plan for the live sheep export trade. Littleproud has refused to make the tough decisions.

The Morrison Government's chaos and confusion continues to harm our agriculture sector.

BIG SHEEP BOATS WIN RACE AHEAD OF MOSS REVIEW - Fitzgibbon

The release of the Morrison Government's [review into the culture](#) within the live export regulator is now eight weeks late but that hasn't stopped their approval of a [shipment of 130,000 sheep from Perth to Kuwait](#).

Labor understands the Moss Report has been sitting on Minister Littleproud's desk for a number of weeks and he is refusing to release the full list of recommendations.

This rings alarm bells for all those concerned with animal welfare; particularly given Minister Littleproud's comments at the National Farmers' Federation Congress where he claimed that the live export industry was to be [reset](#).

It must be remembered that the culture Mr Philip Moss AM has been looking at was created by former Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce and following the leadership battles within the Nationals there is a real possibility that he may be [returned to Cabinet](#) before the reforms can be implemented.

Minister Littleproud must come out of hiding to explain why he is keeping the Moss review report a secret.

Governments must build and maintain public confidence in the agriculture sector's practices to ensure sustainable profitability. The Morrison Government has not done so.

SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE APVMA – Fitzgibbon

The Senate supported a Labor motion to establish an inquiry into the independence, effectiveness and responsiveness of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority decision making processes. Government Senators opposed the motion.

The inquiry has been established in response to the [ABC Four Corners report on Glyphosate](#) which raised questions about the APVMA's processes and independence.

The inquiry will include an assessment of the impact of the forced relocation of the APVMA to Barnaby Joyce's electorate and the subsequent collapse in its workforce.

The best way to ensure that our farmers, veterinarians and owners of companion animals have timely access to safe and effective products is to maintain community confidence in the work of the regulator.

Recent political interference has undermined that confidence and Labor Senators will investigate both the impact of the relocation and the relationships between the Government, the regulator and the companies seeking approvals for their products.

MORRISON'S ZOMBIE VISA – Fitzgibbon/Neumann

The [Agricultural visa](#) is now the zombie visa. [On Saturday](#) the PM declared it dead. [But in Question Time on Monday](#), he appeared to promise its resurrection. The clock is ticking and the workforce shortage in the ag sector has been exacerbated by Scott Morrison's [backpacker tax](#). In August the Deputy PM said he would like to see the policy "[sorted within weeks, not months](#)." His predecessor Barnaby Joyce says "[there's no such things as dead in politics](#)." But we're not sure whether he's talking about the visa or [himself](#). It's clear the internal divisions in the Coalition are why Morrison's Muppet Show has failed to develop a policy to address agricultural labour market shortages. This chaos and confusion is hurting our farmers.

GOVERNMENT HAS ITS HEAD IN THE SAND ON ANIMAL WELFARE – Fitzgibbon

Debate resumed in the House of Representatives on Monday on Labor's Private Member's Bill to restore the Inspector General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports.

Three Government Members spoke to the Bill for five minutes each. Not one of them mentioned the position of the Inspector General. Barnaby Joyce, Rowan Ramsey and Michelle Landry spent their five minutes providing unqualified support for the live sheep trade.

This lack of engagement with the issue at hand reflects the Coalition's unwillingness and inability to conduct an intelligent and considered debate on critical matters in agriculture. It sells our farmers and agricultural stakeholders short.

Labor established the Inspector General but Barnaby Joyce abolished the position on winning office.

An independent statutory officer, the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animal Exports will have oversight of the Commonwealth regulator in animal welfare matters.

Even the current Minister David Littleproud is willing to consider the merits of the position of the Inspector-General of Animal Welfare and Live Animals Exports and has included the position in the [Moss Review](#). Sadly the Moss review was due on 24 August and we are still awaiting the findings.

It's shocking events of animal cruelty, like what we saw in the Awassi Express live sheep export incident, that confirms the need for an independent statutory officer auditing the work of the regulator.

Liberal and National Party MPs must know that the restoration of an independent statutory officer is an important step in building community confidence in the regulatory system and protecting animal welfare

COMMUNICATIONS

NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY ON NBN CONSUMER EXPERIENCE – Rowland/Jones

Complaints to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman (TIO) have continued to rise to 167,831 in 2017-18, with NBN complaints increasing by at least a further 53 per cent. Despite the number of complaints trending downwards in the last quarter of 2017-18, the overall number of complaints still remains too high.

"Whilst this shift in trend is welcome there is still much to do", Ms Rowland said.

"Consumer interactions remain too complex and poor customer service continues to leave many in the community wondering where the buck stops."

"As far as Labor is concerned there is no room for complacency. NBNCo and retail providers need to maintain a concerted effort to deliver sustained improvements."

"In 2017-18 the TIO has recorded 167,831 complaints. That's more than four times the number of complaints to the Financial Services Ombudsman", Mr Jones said.

"Clearly consumers and small business expect improvements."

NBNCo and retail providers have taken positive steps to improve wholesale pricing and migration processes and that is something to build on going forward.

Labor also believes small business should have stronger protections to ensure problems are fixed.

This is why Labor has announced it will establish an NBN Service Guarantee, building on recent steps by the ACCC, to improve accountability and better safeguard consumers and small businesses from poor outcomes such as excessive downtime.

FIFIELD'S WHITEWASH – Rowland

As predicted, the Departmental Inquiry into the ABC ordered by the Minister for Communications is nothing more than a whitewash designed to cover up the Government's involvement in the recent political interference scandal.

On Monday Senator Fifield tabled a statement and the report of his Clayton's inquiry in Parliament, which shows why a public Senate inquiry is needed and why he should stand down as Minister for Communications.

Minister Fifield's statement demonstrates why he cannot be trusted with the ABC:

- He denies that the Government has sought to undermine ABC independence, despite the apparent impact of the Government's multi-pronged attack on the ABC;
- He maintains that the ABC is well-resourced, despite the fact the Government's latest budget cuts challenge ABC Charter delivery;
- He justifies his disregard for the independent Nomination Panel process for Board appointments as standard practice, despite the fact this goes against the spirit and intent of the law;
- He fails to address his involvement in the meeting that prompted former ABC Chairman, Justin Milne, to seek the sacking of an ABC journalist, despite saying he wants to be very clear and transparent about recent matters; and
- He clings to the notion that only direct requests or suggestions to terminate the employment of a journalist or ABC staff member are relevant, despite the weight of evidence indicating Government pressure on the ABC.

With all due respect to the Secretary of the Department, who was placed in an invidious position by the Minister, the inquiry report begs more questions than answers:

- It was unable to ascertain all the facts, given lack of powers to compel parties or documents;
- It leaves key questions unanswered; and



- It points to an insidious level of government pressure, with both the former Chair and Managing Director expressing the view that there was no doubt about the Government being very concerned, and “that these concerns would affect the ABC’s standing, relationships and support within Government, including for future investment and funding support” (Page 8 of Inquiry into allegations relating to the ABC, Report to the Minister from the Secretary of the Department of Communications and the Arts ,11 October 2018).

Furthermore, in Question Time today, the Minister dodged Labor questioning on whether the Secretary asked the Minister about the Minister’s role in the allegations of political interference in the ABC, and sought to avoid answering what it was he and Malcolm Turnbull said in the meeting with Justin Milne that left Mr Milne with the clear impression that the ABC’s funding would be affected unless an ABC journalist was sacked.

With the first coat of Fifield’s whitewash down, now his narrow internal inquiry is complete, the Minister is now prepping the second coat, with his request that the ABC Board provide assurance that the Board has upheld its duty to maintain the independence and integrity of the ABC. It is Labor’s strong view that recent allegations of political interference at the ABC cannot be ignored.

The ABC is a foundation of our democracy and a public inquiry is needed to hold the Government and responsible Minister to account. Labor will give notice to refer this matter to the Senate for public inquiry and report.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

LIBERALS FAILING OLDER AUSTRALIANS ON HOUSING – Cameron

Reports that the National Debt Helpline is on track to receive a record number of calls this year, particularly from older Australians struggling to pay their rent or mortgage, further highlights the Liberal Government’s failure on housing policy.

The report coincides with today’s release of ACOSS’s Poverty in Australia Report that shows more than 3 million Australians are living in poverty, and that a lack affordable housing is a key driver of disadvantage in Australia.

Shadow Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Senator Doug Cameron, said the Coalition has failed to deliver national leadership or any substantive policy to address the housing crisis in its more than five years in office.

The Liberals continue to oppose Labor’s reforms to negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions aimed at improving housing affordability,” Senator Cameron said.

“They are too busy worrying about how they will give tax breaks to their mates in big business to worry about vulnerable older Australians.

“There are parts of western Sydney where house prices have risen more than 80 per cent while wages have grown just 10 per cent over the same period.”

Senator Cameron said the Government’s failure to bridge the funding gap, along with the short-sighted decision to discontinue the National Rental Affordability Scheme, has severely curtailed the supply of affordable rental housing.

Housing policy experts are unanimous that bridging the funding gap is essential to improving housing affordability and securing better housing outcomes for Australians.

“The Liberals have ignored calls from the Senate Economics Committee, its own Affordable Housing Working Group, and key experts and stakeholders, to urgently address the ‘yield gap’, in order to encourage institutional and community housing providers to invest in and build affordable housing.

Senator Cameron said the Liberals also continue to ignore the gendered determinants of housing insecurity and homelessness for women, which he said stem from gender inequality.

Recent ABS figures show a 31 per cent rise in homelessness among older women between the 2011 and 2016 Census.

“This alarming rise in women experiencing homelessness is compounded by a lack of affordable housing, low levels of superannuation and deficiencies in the social security system,” he said.

If elected, a Labor government will:

- Pursue a comprehensive suite of housing affordability and supply reforms – including our commitments to restrict negative gearing and capital gains tax concessions.
- Develop and implement a national plan to reduce homelessness through the Council of Australian Governments.
- Reinstatement of a Minister for Housing and Homelessness, and re-establish the National Housing Supply Council, and
- Provide \$88 million over two years for a new Safe Housing Fund to increase transitional housing options for women and children escaping domestic and family violence, young people exiting out-of-home care and older women on low incomes who are at risk of homelessness.

RIGHTS

SENATE MOTION – WHERE IS PORTER? – Dreyfus

Christian Porter’s statement today explaining his role in the government’s decision to support the appalling Hanson motion endorsing a key catchphrase used by the white supremacy movement, is flimsy and inadequate at best.

It is not good enough for Mr Porter to hide behind Senator Cormann, who claims Senators accidentally voted for the motion due to an “administrative error”.

Nor is it good enough for Mr Porter to hide behind his staff.

Senator Hanson gave notice of this motion on September 19. Porter had 25 days to read the motion and make a decision on whether to support or oppose it.

As Attorney-General, Christian Porter is in charge of the Racial Discrimination Act and interpreting other complex legislation. Does he seriously expect Australians to believe that he couldn’t interpret what Senator Hanson’s motion meant?

Mr Porter needs to front up and take responsibility for this himself.

Up until late last night, Christian Porter was [still trying to justify](#) the government’s decision on Twitter, with Leader of the Senate [Mathias Cormann himself](#), following suit.

This is not something the government can just shrug off. This is government Senators being seen to endorse a battle cry of the white supremacy movement inside the Australian Parliament. It is appalling.

This is not just a deeply embarrassing moment for the Coalition, but also for the country.

The voters of Wentworth should ask themselves – can they endorse a government with these sorts of values, with Senators who don't even know what they're supposed to be voting for?

END TO DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LGBTI STUDENTS AND TEACHERS – Dreyfus

Labor is calling on the government to immediately amend the Sex Discrimination Act to remove outdated exemptions that allow religious schools to discriminate against students and teachers on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

We welcome the consensus from both sides of politics that exemptions that impact on schoolchildren should be removed as soon as possible.

But it is clear this does not go far enough.

If it is unfair for a student to be discriminated against because of their sexual orientation and gender identity in a religious school, how can the same thing be fair for their teacher? It just doesn't make sense, and it's wrong.

These laws are no longer appropriate, if indeed they ever were appropriate.

From our discussions with religious schools and organisations, it's clear that overwhelmingly schools don't discriminate against students, and don't wish to retain an ability to do so.

Labor is extremely disappointed at Mr Morrison's refusal to work with Labor on removing exemptions for teachers.

We hope he reconsiders this response, which is clearly out of line with what Australians want.

Of course, we respect the right of religious schools to run their schools in line with their beliefs and traditions, and any change to the law should protect that.

Our LGBTI students and their teachers don't deserve to live in fear that they will be kicked out of their schools because of who they are or who they love. This is not appropriate in 2018.

The government's amendments must not stop at students. They must include the abolition of exemptions for teachers and other staff.

If they don't, we will pursue an amendment of our own.

Scott Morrison must release the Ruddock review in full without delay, and make clear the Government's response to the recommendations. Doing so would not only assist this debate, but allow the voters of Wentworth to be fully apprised of the facts before making their decision about who they vote for on Saturday.



SOCIAL SERVICES

REPORT SHOWS MAJOR EFFORT NEEDED ON CHILD POVERTY – Rishworth/McAllister

Labor is committed to tackling child poverty and putting Australia's children first. A new report shows that 1 in 6 children are living in poverty, reinforcing the need for a concerted, sustained effort to tackle this issue.

The report from Uniting Care Australia and NATSEM shows that children are experiencing disadvantage on multiple fronts producing alarming rates of social exclusion.

Housing stress, limited access to education and health care, and reliance on low paid and insecure work places enormous pressure on families and their children.

Labor welcomes this important report, and congratulates Uniting Care Australia and NATSEM for producing this significant resource.

Labor believes that every child should have the opportunity to meet their full potential. No child deserves to live in poverty.

Labor wants our children to have the best possible start in life which is why we want universal access to preschool for our four year old and three year olds.

There is overwhelming evidence to show that the children who miss out on early years learning, often those children from disadvantaged backgrounds are the ones who would benefit most from a preschool program.

That is why earlier this month Labor announced its National Preschool and Kindy Program.

Labor's program is a commitment to permanent ongoing funding to the national preschool and kindy program for all four year olds and importantly will, for the first time, extend to cover all three year olds.

The National Preschool and Kindy Program will guarantee around 700,000 Australian children a year will be able to access subsidised preschool.

This program will offer two years of high quality, play based learning to support the most important years of a child's development.

The National Preschool and Kindy Program is part of Labor's Fair Go Action plan which will support Australian children.

We will properly fund our hospitals, to ensure all children can access timely, quality health care.

We will tackle the housing crisis by reforming negative gearing and providing opportunities for young families to enter the housing market.

And we will reverse the cuts to penalty rates that hardworking Australians rely on to support their families.

Labor has a plan to put Australia's children first.

MESSAGE FROM LINDA BURNEY – ANTI POVERTY WEEK

This past week was Anti-Poverty Week. But at a time when inequality in Australia is higher than the OECD average, it should be a daily concern. Labor has a plan to help vulnerable Australians by reviewing the adequacy of Newstart, defending the pension, and protecting Medicare. Anti-Poverty Week underlines the need to tackle inequality and ensure vulnerable Australians are not left behind.

At the [Anti-Poverty Week website](#) you will find print and digital resources, including social media graphics. Be sure to use the [hashtags #AntiPovertyWeek or #apw2018](#).

NATIONAL CARERS WEEK – Burney/Brown

Labor would like to take this opportunity during National Carers Week to thank all carers and acknowledge the invaluable role that they play in supporting our friends, families and loved ones.

The theme this year is Why We Care. It's an opportunity for all carers to share their story and help grow the voice of the carer community.

Over 2.7 million carers across Australia provide support valued at over \$165 million per day to the Australian economy.

Unfortunately, carers all too often experience difficulties finding employment, education or community engagement opportunities that fit with their caring responsibilities.

"It's our role to build an inclusive society that acknowledges and supports the role of carers" said Shadow Minister for Families and Social Services, Linda Burney. "Australia wouldn't be the country that it is today, without the hard work of carers all over the country".

"I'd like to acknowledge the hard work of Carers Australia who organise this initiative" said Senator Carol Brown, Shadow Minister for Disability and Carers.

"The role of carers can often be even more challenging than that of full-time work".

LABOR WELCOMES EXPANSION OF BANK@POST AGREEMENT – Rowland

Labor welcomes the [addition of two more major banks](#) to the Bank@Post community agreement. Expanded participation will help support the provision of banking services through Australia Post Office outlets which serve many communities who do not have a local bank branch. Importantly, this agreement will help deliver a fairer deal for Post Office licensees, which is a welcome step given many licensees have been doing it tough. Labor hopes to see an agreement to bring all major banks on board, and congratulates Australia Post and its CEO Christine Holgate on the progress made to date.

REPUBLICAN

STRONG SUPPORT FOR ADVANCING TO AN AUSTRALIAN HEAD OF STATE – Thistlethwaite

More Australians are supporting a local as our nation's head of state and only Labor has a clear plan for a pathway to a republic.

A new survey from **ResearchNow**, commissioned by the Australian Republic Movement, shows the majority of Australians are calling for the positive Constitutional change.

Across all age groups, more people agreed than disagreed on the need for Australia to advance to a republic where a local has a fair go at becoming the nation's head of state.

Support for reform is highest among younger and middle-aged Australians. Since the 1999 republic referendum there are now almost 4 million more people on the electoral rolls compared to that time. This includes a new generation of Australians who could not vote at the time of the referendum 19 years ago.

Only Labor has pledged to hold a vote on an Australian head of state during the first term of a Shorten Labor Government. Once again, Labor is listening to all Australians and leading where the Liberals will not.

An Australian head of state doesn't mean disrespecting our history or the head of a foreign royal family.

Australia's head of state should be a person that represents Australians above all other nations - someone we can all be proud of and our kids, and their kids, can aspire to be one day.

INFRASTRUCTURE

IT'S TIME FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GET BEHIND HIGH SPEED RAIL – Albanese

On Monday Labor re-introduced to Parliament a Private Member's Bill that would create an authority to begin detailed planning for construction of a High Speed Rail Link from Brisbane to Melbourne via Sydney and Canberra.

High Speed Rail down Australia's east coast would revolutionise interstate travel, allowing people to move between capital cities in as little as three hours.



It would also turbo charge the economic development of the regional centres along its route, including the Gold Coast, Casino, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Port Macquarie, Taree, Newcastle, the Central Coast, Southern Highlands, Wagga Wagga, Albury-Wodonga and Shepparton.

According to a leaked list of Coalition budget decisions made but not yet announced, the Morrison Government has already decided to support High Speed Rail after five years of ignoring the project.

However, it has decided to hold back that investment for political purposes, intending to announce it during the coming Federal election campaign.

This Bill represents an opportunity to put the politics aside get High Speed Rail moving now in the national interest.

It would create a High Speed Rail Authority which would immediately begin work to finalise the track alignment and a business case and identify opportunities for private sector involvement.

In 2013 the former Labor Government conducted a feasibility study into the project which found it was viable, producing \$2.50 of economic benefit for every dollar invested on the Sydney-Melbourne section alone.

We then appointed an expert panel including former Nationals Leader Tim Fischer, Business Council of Australian chief executive Jennifer Westacott and the late Australasian Railways Association chief Bryan Nye to review that study.

The panel recommended the creation of a delivery authority to work with the governments of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory on detailed planning and corridor acquisition.

The Private Member's Bill would establish that authority. This is the fifth time since 2013 I have introduced this piece of legislation. To this point, the Government has refused to facilitate debate. Now is the time to adopt a bi-partisan approach to this important project.

WATERFORD RHC

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CURRENT SENATE INQUIRIES – AS OF FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER 2018

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

- [New Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission Bill 2018 and related Bill](#)
- [My Health Records Amendment \(Strengthening Privacy\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Security Legislation Amendment \(Community Development Program\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Maintaining Income Thresholds\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Social Services Legislation Amendment \(Encouraging Self-sufficiency for Newly Arrived Migrants\) Bill 2018](#)

Community Affairs References Committee

- [Support for Australia's thalidomide survivors](#)
- [My Health Record system](#)
- [Accessibility and quality of mental health services in rural and remote Australia](#)
- [Effectiveness of the Aged Care Quality Assessment and accreditation framework for protecting residents from abuse and poor practices, and ensuring proper clinical and medical care standards are maintained and practiced](#)

Economics References Committee

- [Financial and tax practices of for-profit aged care providers](#)
- [The Commitment to the Senate issued by the Business Council of Australia](#)
- [Regional Inequality in Australia](#)
- [Consumer protection in the banking, insurance and financial sector](#)
- [Non-conforming building products](#)

Economics Legislation Committee

- [New Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Every State and Territory Gets Their Fair Share of GST\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [New Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Multinationals Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Design and Distribution Obligations and Product Intervention Powers\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Making Sure Foreign Investors Pay Their Fair Share of Tax in Australia and Other Measures\) Bill 2018; Income Tax \(Managed Investment Trust Withholding Tax\) Amendment Bill 2018; Income Tax Rates Amendment \(Sovereign Entities\) Bill 2018](#)

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

- [New Higher Education Support Amendment \(Cost Recovery\) Bill 2018, and the Higher Education Support \(Charges\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Fair Work Amendment \(Family and Domestic Violence Leave\) Bill 2018](#)

Education and Employment References Committee

- [The appropriateness and effectiveness of the objectives, design, implementation and evaluation of jobactive](#)

- [The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies](#)
- [The high rates of mental health conditions experienced by first responders, emergency service workers and volunteers](#)
- [The prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia](#)

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

- **New** [The allegations of political interference in the Australian Broadcasting Corporation \(ABC\)](#)
- [Impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia](#)
- [Treasury Laws Amendment \(Improving the Energy Efficiency of Rental Properties\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Telecommunications Legislation Amendment Bill 2018](#)

Environment and Communications References Committee

- [Gaming micro-transactions for chance-based items](#)
- [Australia's faunal extinction crisis](#)
- [Great Barrier Reef 2050 Partnership Program](#)
- [Australian content on broadcast, radio and streaming services](#)
- [Water use by the extractive industry](#)
- [Rehabilitation of mining and resources projects as it relates to Commonwealth responsibilities](#)

Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

- [Intelligence Services Amendment \(Enhanced Parliamentary Oversight of Intelligence Agencies\) Bill 2018](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

- [Defence Amendment \(Sovereign Naval Shipbuilding\) Bill 2018](#)

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

- [Use of the Quinoline anti-malarial drugs Mefloquine and Tafenoquine in the Australian Defence Force](#)
- [Proposed Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership](#)
- [United Nations Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

New [The effectiveness of the current temporary skilled visa system in targeting genuine skills shortages](#)

- [Freedom of Information Legislation Amendment \(Improving Access and Transparency\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia \(Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Bill 2018, Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia Bill 2018](#)
- [Customs Amendment \(Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\], Customs Tariff Amendment \(Comprehensive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Implementation\) Bill 2018 \[Provisions\]](#)
- [Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Censorship\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Insult and Offend\) Bill 2018, Freedom of Speech Legislation Amendment \(Security\) Bill 2018](#)
- [The Criminal Code and Other Legislation Amendment \(Removing Commonwealth Restrictions on Cannabis\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Australian Citizenship Legislation Amendment \(Strengthening the Commitments for Australian Citizenship and Other Measures\) Bill 2018](#)
- [Judiciary Amendment \(Commonwealth Model Litigant Obligations\) Bill 2017](#)

Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee

- [Allegations concerning the inappropriate exercise of ministerial powers, with respect to the visa status of au pairs, and related matters](#)
- [The practice of dowry and the incidence of dowry abuse in Australia](#)

Procedure Committee

- [Proposal to replace the parliamentary prayer with an invitation to prayer or reflection](#)

Red Tape Committee

- [The effect of red tape on private education](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

New [The independence of regulatory decisions made by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority \(APVMA\)](#)

- [Performance of Airservices Australia](#)

Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee

- [Regulatory approaches to ensure the safety of pet food](#)
- [The need for regulation of mobility scooters, also known as motorised wheelchairs](#)
- [The operation, regulation and funding of air route service delivery to rural, regional and remote communities](#)
- [The integrity of the water market in the Murray-Darling Basin](#)

Select Committee into the obesity epidemic in Australia

- [Obesity Epidemic in Australia](#)

Select Committee on Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century

- [Charity Fundraising in the 21st Century](#)

Select Committee on Electric Vehicles

- [Electric Vehicles](#)

Select Committee on Stillbirth Research and Education

- [Stillbirth Research and Education](#)

Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers

- [Senate Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers](#)